

THE PLAIN DEALER

INNOVATION

Changing gears for the greater good



Dan T. Moore Co. lead engineers Andrew Dorman, center, and Ryan Sarkisian, right, inspect a finished ventilator Wednesday during a media tour of the reconfigured manufacturing warehouse in Cleveland. The ventilators have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and are being produced in Cleveland. The project is a collaboration between Dan T. Moore Co., MedWorks, which coordinated funding from the Cleveland Foundation, and University Hospitals, which helped to test and develop the machine. The company can produce up to 200 ventilators a day to help in the battle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Photos by John Kuntz, cleveland.com

New company receives FDA approval, begins producing ventilators immediately

Sabrina Eaton seaton@cleveland.com

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a new ventilator for coronavirus patients produced by a new Cleveland company called SecondBreath LLC, U.S. Sen. Rob Portman said Tuesday.

Portman said the company is comprised of several local manufacturers that don't usually make products related to ventilators. The group "engaged their engineers and their manufacturing process people several weeks ago when they saw there was a need" to design a ventilator. The local manufacturers are part of Dan T. Moore Co.

They worked with local hospitals including the Cleveland Clinic, Akron Children's Hospital and Akron City Hospital to test the new product, said Portman. University Hospitals Cleveland anaesthesiologist Mada Helou acted as consulting physician, and the product's development was funded by a Cleveland Foundation grant.

"They went back and forth with the FDA to make sure it was appropriate and safe, and my role was simply to ask the FDA to give it consideration and to expedite it, given the urgency for ventilators right now," Portman said.

He said the group will scale up production of the ventilators and send them around the country. He noted that larger companies like Ford and General Motors that have agreed to make ventilators will not begin production until later this year.

"This company, on the other hand, has already made some ventilators — they can produce more quickly.... I'm proud of what they're doing," Portman said.

SecondBreath spokeswoman Ford said a pair of engineers, Andrew Dorman and Ryan Sarkisian, designed the ventilator in roughly a week after learning of the national shortage caused by the pandemic. Dorman and Sarkisian work for several Dan T. Moore Company manufacturers.

Ford said the SecondBreath ventilators are meant to provide temporary support for patients in respiratory failure until an Intensive Care Unit ventilator is available. He said the devices won't replace hospitals' higher-cost machines but will cost "well under \$10,000" and be "a good hedge" for medical providers.

The devices — technically called electric pneumatic resuscitators — can be used in a hospital or in the field, said Dorman. All the machine needs to function is a 110-volt out-



Dan T. Moore, founder and CEO of Dan T. Moore Co., speaks with the media Wednesday during a walk through of ventilator production by his company, SecondBreath LLC. The ventilators were approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration at 11 p.m. Monday and are currently being manufactured and shipped. SecondBreath can produce up to 200 devices per day to help battle the coronavirus pandemic.

let and a compressed air supply.

SecondBreath received FDA approval at 11 p.m. Monday and have produced 36 devices so far, Ford said.

The company soon will be able to produce between 100 to 200 devices per day, pending customer demand. He said the company will be able to quickly repurpose machines used to make car parts to produce the ventilators.

"We had a lot of idle machines and now they are all being retooled for ventilator production," said Ford. "That's why the world runs on small business."

The initial idea for the device came from Zac Ponsky, founder and co-president of Medworks, a local non-profit organization that links people who are uninsured and underinsured with health care, according to a Medworks press release.

SEE VENTILATORS, A8

Timeline

- Monday 11 p.m.:** SecondBreath LLC receives FDA approval to produce ventilators.
- Wednesday:** 36 devices produced
- Future:** Hopes to make 100 to 200 per day.

School home

Learning your ASL ABCs

Today's assignment: How quickly can you memorize your ASL ABCs? Practice these letters and see if you can spell your name! **Page B9**

COVID-19 UPDATE

Hospitals asked to prepare to restart elective surgeries

Evan MacDonald and Laura Hancock emacdonald@cleveland.com, lhancock@cleveland.com

Gov. Mike DeWine said Wednesday that he asked Ohio hospitals to develop a plan to resume elective surgeries and other procedures delayed in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton ordered hospitals to postpone elective surgeries last month. The state intended the move to free up hospital space in case it experienced a surge of coronavirus patients and to limit the use of personal protective equipment, such as face masks, that were already in short supply.

DeWine said during Wednesday's daily coronavirus briefings that he had asked the Ohio Hospital Association to develop a plan to resume delayed procedures. He noted that social distancing measures have dramatically improved the state's outlook for the coronavirus outbreak, and have kept hospitals from being overwhelmed with an influx of COVID-19 patients.

DeWine asked hospitals to submit the plan to him by next Wednesday. He instructed them to consider the fact Ohio and other states are still scrambling to obtain more PPE to supply hospitals, first responders and nursing homes.

"We feel much better about the capacity in the hospitals themselves. But again, the problem still remains and is still a challenge, in regard to personal protection equipment and having enough of that," DeWine said.

SEE SURGERIES, A8

ECONOMY

How to track your federal stimulus check

Sabrina Eaton seaton@cleveland.com

If you haven't yet received your stimulus check payment from the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Department of the Treasury on Wednesday unveiled a free "Get My Payment" web application to help track it.

It also allows those who didn't previously give IRS their bank information to supply it so IRS can directly deposit payments into their accounts instead of sending it in the mail.

It is available at tinyurl.com/mycheck2020. The Treasury Department says it will display on any desktop, phone or tablet and does not need to be downloaded from an app store.

A coronavirus relief package that President Donald Trump signed last month calls for the government to provide \$1,200 payments to individuals who make less than \$75,000 and \$2,400 for couples making less than \$150,000. Families with children would be eligible for an additional \$500 per child. The amount would be reduced by five cents for every dollar that a tax filer's adjusted gross income exceeds \$75,000, or that a married couple filing jointly exceeds \$150,000.

A statement from Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin said more than 80 million Americans have already received their Economic Impact Payments by direct deposit, and the app will help the rest "get their money fast." His department expects a large majority of eligible Americans will receive their Economic Impact Payments within the next two weeks.

SEE TRACK YOUR CHECK, A8